News Summary and Index

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 1972

The Major Events of the Day—Section 1

International

Pakistan freed Sheik Mujibur Rahman, the East Pakistani leader, yesterday and flew him to London, where he said at a news conference that an independent East Pakistan, Bangladesh, was "an unchallengeable reality." The regime that has named Sheik Mujib as its head immediately chartered a plane to carry him from London to India and Dacca, the East Pakistani capital. President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan, who freed the sheik, was reported later to have put Pakistan's former president, Aga Mohammad Yahya Khan, under house arrest. [Page 1, Column 8; Text, P. 2.]

Highly qualified spokesmen in Washington said that the United States was continuing to send relief supplies for the nine million East Pakistani refugees still in India despite the much-publicized "cut-off" of American economic aid to India. The officials added that the aid cut was not so great as supposed and did not affect generalized imports, development loans or relief. [1:7-8.]

In reprisal for the raising by India of her diplomatic relations with Hanoi to the ambassadorial level without doing the same in Saigon, the South Vietnamese Government said the new Indian chairman of the International Control Commission for Indochina would be barred from entering South Vietnam. The move is a token protest: the commission is generally considered to have had little function in Vietnam recently. [20:4-6.]

Senator George McGovern, a Democratic Presidential candidate, said at a news conference in Washington that he was convinced after talking by telephone to a North Vietnamese official in Paris last week that American prisoners of war would be released if the United States set a date for ending all military operations in Indochina. [21:1.]

National

The Cost of Living Council exempted the United States Postal Service from price controls, at the same time approving a request from the service that third-class mail rates be allowed to rise 23.9 per cent on Jan. 24. A spokesman for the council said the wages of postal workers would still be subject to Pay Board control. [1:4.]

QUOTATION OF THE DAY: "Today I am free to share the unbounded joy of freedom with my fellow countryman."—Sheik Mujibur Rahman, who was released after nine months in a Pakistan prison. [3:1.]

Mayor Lindsay, in the sharpest attack on his competitors for the Democratic Presidential nomination yet, charged that some were hypocritical in opposing the Vietnam war now after voting "for every measure to continue the senseless, immoral and infamous war." Mr. Lindsay, campaigning in Florida, also said he favored repeal of the criminal laws against the possession of marijuana. [60:4-7.]

The first nongovernmental medical specialist to inspect the pictures and X-rays of the body of President Kennedy taken soon after he was assassinated said that the items "eliminate any doubt completely" that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin. Until last week, only representatives of the Government were given access to the items, and not even staff members of the Warren Commission saw them. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

Dr. Lowell E. Bellin, the first deputy health commissioner, estimated that the city had saved $1.6-million last year because Health Department audits caused reductions in Medicaid bills and forced restitutions in payments made earlier. He said a grand jury estimate that nearly $1-billion was wasted or lost came entirely from cases that had been found and on which action taken as a result of the audits. [30:1.]

Service was reported normal on the city's buses and subways, with no resumption of Friday's wildcat strike by more than 1,000 transit workers unhappy over their new wage settlement. The Transit Authority obtained a court order Friday night banning further work stoppages. [31:1-2.]

The police announced the arrest of a fifth suspect in the robbery last Sunday of the Pierre Hotel. Four suspects were arrested Friday, and about $250,000 in jewelry was recovered. Possibly more than $1-million in cash and jewelry was missing. [63:1-5.]